

**Former Fraser Paper Administration Building Site
(also known as the Former Bermico Plant Site)
Berlin, NH**



DES Site Number: 200610027

[ONESTOP Master Id.: 61762](#)

Date of update: 200610027

Description: This site is currently vacant and was formerly part of a larger parcel of land that housed the former Bermico Pipe Plant, the Fraser Paper Administration Building, and the Fraser Paper Human Resources Building. The original parcel was subdivided into three separate lots. The Administration Building lot was retained by a developer. The developer demolished the former Administration Building and constructed a new, two-story office building that now houses the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services and the Berlin District Court. The Human Resources Building lot and the Bermico Pipe Plant lot were transferred to the city of Berlin. The Human Resources Building is currently vacant and up for sale. The subject of all future assessment work and cleanup under this DES site number is the Bermico Pipe Plant lot.

Potential Environmental Concerns: Potential concerns associated with this property include past releases of petroleum, past releases of a group of compounds known as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs (usually associated with heavy petroleum releases, coal tar, coal ash, and/or wood ash), various metals, and asbestos-containing materials. These contaminants are present in the site soils and the remains of structures associated with former petroleum storage tanks.

Groundwater Contamination: Several PAHs have been detected in site groundwater at concentrations exceeding DES Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS). Based on the results of the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, the primary source of the PAHs appears to be associated with coal ash and the observed petroleum product in the vicinity of the former petroleum storage tanks.

Previous Work: A Brownfields Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on behalf of Berlin Economic Development Corporation (BEDCO) in 2007. The initial Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed by Nobis Engineering Inc. (Nobis) under a grant of technical services from DES. This assessment solely focused on the Administration Building.

A subsequent Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on the entire parcel by Nobis under a grant of technical services from the North Country Council Inc. (NCC) in 2009. Based on the results of the Phase I Environmental Assessment, attention was focused on the rear portion of the property where the former Bermico Pipe Plant and a large bulk oil aboveground storage tank were located. The additional assessment work was completed by Nobis with funding provided by DES. The results of this work were submitted to DES in February 2010.

Current Work: DES authorized Nobis to: (1) conduct supplemental assessment work necessary for cleanup planning; and (2) prepare a remedial action plan for remediation of the site. DES anticipates that the remedial action plan will be available for public review and comment in April/May 2010.

Copies of all available Brownfields reports for this site can be accessed from the DES ONESTOP database at [ONESTOP Master Id.: 61762](#).

Scheduled Public Events: There are no public meetings currently scheduled for this site.

Cleanup Planning: Cleanup planning documents are currently being prepared for this site. These documents will be released for public comment once DES and the city of Berlin have had an opportunity to review the draft documents for formal submittal.

Section 106 of Historic Preservation Act: A Project Review Request has not yet been submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources – Division of Historical Resources (DHR) on behalf of DES for consultation. However, DES will submit a Project Review Request to DHR following receipt and review of the remedial action plan.